

5-28-2017

## 47th Chicano Commencement, 2017

San Jose State University, Associated Students

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SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY 47TH ANNUAL

# CHICANO



# COMMENCEMENT

*Con Orgullo, Con Poder, Y Sin Miedo*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Congratulations, Class of 2017! Chicano Commencement is a wonderful opportunity for all of you to acknowledge the importance of your heritage while celebrating your achievements with family, friends and mentors. You should be proud of your accomplishments and the contributions you have made during your time at San Jose State University. While you are graduating, you will remain part of the Spartan family as alumni and I hope you stay actively involved with your alma mater. I wish you the best as you begin the next part of our journey. I know that you will become leaders in your fields and will shape the future of our society. On behalf of the entire San José State University community, felicidades!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Papazian', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary A. Papazian

President

San José State University

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY 47TH ANNUAL

# CHICANO



# COMMENCEMENT

*Con Orgullo, Con Poder, Y Sin Miedo*



# GRADUATION AGENDA

**2:00 PM**

Doors Open - Guest Registration

**3:00 - 6:00 PM**

Dinner & performances by:

Calpulli Tonalehqueh Aztec Dancers

Grupo Folklorico Luna y Sol de SJSU

Mariachi Sonora

**5:30 PM**

Doors Open to the General Public

**6:00 PM**

Graduation Ceremony

**7:00 PM**

Keynote Speaker & Speeches

**8PM - 12 AM**

La Ultima Pachanga Reception

Banda La Conquistadora

DJ Sonido Politecnico









# DR. MAGDALENA BARRERA

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Magdalena Barrera is an Associate Professor of Mexican American Studies, the Acting Chair of African American Studies at San Jose State University, and a member of the ¡Adelante! Chicana/x/Latina/x Student Success Task Force. Born and raised outside of Chicago, Illinois, she is proud of her Mexican heritage and to have been a first-generation college student. Dr. Barrera received a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Latin American Studies from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Modern Thought in Literature from Stanford University. She joined SJSU after a teaching fellowship at Stanford University. In MAS, she teaches courses on Chicana/o history, literature, and film, as well as comparative ethnic studies. In her research, Dr. Barrera writes about Mexican Americans in early twentieth-century literature, music, and photography, with a particular focus on issues of gender and cultural adaptation. She also writes about the mentoring and retention of first-generation students and students of color in higher education. Dr. Barrera credits the resilient and hardworking students whom she teaches at SJSU for inspiring her to bring her very best to the classroom; every day she sees them, she is reminded of how blessed she is to be in this meaningful career.

# CLAUDIA TERCERO

## MASTER OF CEREMONY



Claudia Tercero is a former graduate of San Jose State University where she double majored in Spanish and Sociology with a concentration in Criminology. While at SJSU she and group of students reactivated the Circulo Hispanico which had been inactive for the past fifteen years. She served as the secretary for two years and led efforts to create the first Spanish Department graduation. She pledged Sigma Gamma Rho and joined the Iota Beta Sigma Chapter. She was also a previous member of Chicano Commencement during her last year at San Jose State. She currently works in the University Advancement Department directly working with the Development team where she has discovered her passion for philanthropy. She's involved with the Latino Faculty and Staff Association, Chicanx/Latinx Task Force, and African American Task Force. She is a Union Steward, Unit 7 representative for Chapter 307 and serves on the Classification Committee. In her quest to learn more about Chicano Commencement she has met some of the first CC originators, and a group La Raza Heritage Society who is trying to preserve the Chicano history of this Valley. She hopes to to continue to create an organization where students feel a sense of pride in their identity and most of all to continue the legacy of those who started Chicano Commencement.











# WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Buenas tardes a todos

"La educación viene de dentro, se consigues con la lucha, el esfuerzo y el pensamiento".

Y el resultado lo estamos viendo hoy aquí, al cumplir el año número 47 de la Clase de Chicano Commencement de la Universidad Estatal de San José. Estamos muy honrados y contentos de darles a todos ustedes la más cordial bienvenida. Muchos de ustedes han anticipado este día, algunos con ansiedad, otros con una mezcla complicada de emociones, pero lo que estamos sintiendo hoy. ¡Nosotros lo hemos hecho!

Nos hemos reunido en este lugar para celebrar, tanto nuestros logros académicos de los que nos estamos graduando hoy, como el esfuerzo de nuestros familiares que nos ayudaron a alcanzar esta etapa tan importante en nuestras vidas. Esta organización estudiantil fue fundada en 1970, sobre los principios de la cultura, los logros académicos y la comunidad. Hoy también honramos los sacrificios y el trabajo rudo de todos nuestros familiares y amigos que han participado para estar hoy aquí celebrando de nuestra graduación. Se invirtieron innumerables horas en la recaudación de fondos y ayudando a nuestra comunidad, mientras continuábamos asistiendo a nuestras responsabilidades como estudiantes y como individuos. Muchos de estos estudiantes son los primeros en su familia en asistir a una universidad. No ha sido fácil. En muchas ocasiones los obstáculos y adversidades cruzaron nuestro camino. Sin embargo, todos nosotros derrotamos las probabilidades y demostramos que nada es imposible, porque cuando hay una voluntad, hay una o varias maneras de lograr el éxito.

¡Una vez más, Bienvenidos a nuestra ceremonia de Chicano Commencement!

Good evening everyone,

"Education comes from within; you get it by struggle, effort, and thought".

This represents the struggle of our graduates here today, on behalf of the 47th annual San Jose State University Chicano Commencement Class of 2017 we are honored to welcome all of you. Many of you have long anticipated this day, some with eagerness, some with anxiety, some with a complicated mix of emotions but whatever you are feeling here today. You've finally made it! To the Families, friends, and loved ones of the graduates, today we are gathered to honor both the academic achievements of the graduates, but also those who have helped them reach this important milestone in their lives. This student organization was founded in 1970, on the principles of culture, academic achievements and community. Our students today also honor the sacrifices and hard work that all of their loved ones have made in order for them to be on this stage today, celebrating their graduation. Our graduates have worked countless hours, working fundraisers and giving back to their community, all while still attending to their responsibilities as students and individuals. Many of these students are also the first in their family to attend a four year institution. Although it hasn't been easy and at many times obstacles and adversities were in our way, these students defeated the odds and proved that nothing is impossible, because when there is a will, there is a way to achieve success. Once again, Welcome !





**Ana Rivas**  
Co-Chair

**Nancy Barahona**  
Co-Chair







CONGRATULATIONS

# CLASS *of* 2017







## 2017 E-BOARD

**TOP ROW:** Sophia Acala-Cabrera, Co-Social Media and Marketing | Ricardo Magaña, Co-Publicity and Recruitment  
 Zuly Flores Quevedo, Co-Social Media and Marketing | Norely Alcantara, Co-Treasurer | Valeria Rodriguez, Co-Secretary  
 Abigail Palomares, Co-Program Director | Roxana Franco, Co-Fundraiser | David De la Cruz Garcia, Co-Secretary  
 Adriana Andrade Diaz, Co-Facility

**BOTTOM ROW:** Andrea Loza, Co-Program Director | Andrea Rico, Co-Treasurer | Elizabeth Fernandez Duarte, Co-Facility  
 Damian Valencia, Co-Entertainment | Ana Rivas, Co-Chair | Nancy Barahona, Co-Chair | Karen Camacho, Co-Fundraiser

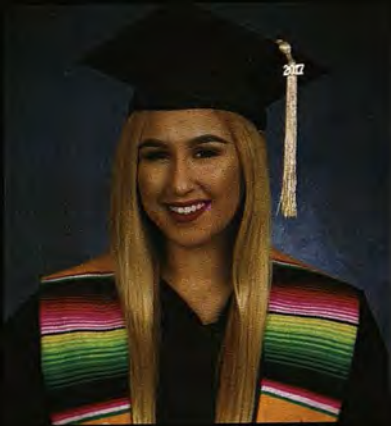
**NOT PICTURED:** Daisy Gonzalez, Co-Entertainment | Jessica Gomez, Co-Publicity and Recruitment



# 2017

GRADUATES





**ABIGAIL  
PALOMARES GUILLEN**

*Major: Sociology  
Minor: Justice Studies*

"Yo no estudio para saber más,  
sino para ignorar menos"- Sor  
Juana Inés De la Cruz

Four years later I can finally check  
my Bachelors degree off my to do  
list! I couldn't have done it  
without the support of my  
amazing family, friends, and  
community. I owe my successes to  
them. Thank you for believing in  
me!



**ADRIANA  
ANDRADE DIAZ**

*Major: Social Work*

Me puse las pilas Amá!

He sido bendecida con una gran  
familia. Me faltan las palabras para  
expresar cuanto los quiero.  
Gracias por siempre estar  
presente, en alegría y en tristezas,  
y por apoyarme en todas mis  
metas. Todo lo que hago, lo hago  
por ustedes. Los quiero mucho!

To my lovely sisters of Sigma  
Theta Psi, Multicultural Sorority.  
You all have changed my life in the  
most beautiful way. Thank you for  
all your unconditional love and  
support. I love you all! T-psi!

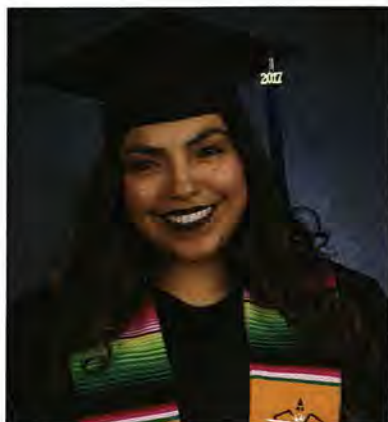


**ALEJANDRA  
VARGAS**

*Major: Child and Adolescent Development  
Minor: Spanish*

Never would have thought this  
day would arrive but here I am!  
graduating with a B.A in Child and  
Adolescent development and a  
Minor in Spanish. I am proud for  
all that I have accomplished here  
at SJSU. I cannot wait and see  
what the future holds for me I  
know that wherever I go or  
whatever I do I will continue to  
succeed in life. Thank you to all  
that made an impact in my life  
both positive and negative YOU  
guys made me who I am. Gracias  
Mamá Y Papá por sus sacrificios,  
este diploma es de ustedes!





**ALEXANDRA  
VIRAMONTES**

*Major: Business Administration with a  
concentration in Management*

Thank you parents for being the real ones; for always motivating/-believing in me throughout every decision I have made. For pushing me to be the strongest and confident and best version of myself. You are the strongest, most hardworking, bravest, and most courageous people I know. I honestly don't know where I would be today without you. Our family has been through so much throughout past few years. I'm blessed and thankful for having my guardian angel by our side. I also want to thank my sorority sisters for being motivating by pushing me to pursue my goals and aspirations.



**ALLISON  
MERELYN SOLIS**

*Major: Environmental Studies*

A quote that has always stuck with me since I did the May Day March one year, which advocates for worker's rights, was "Sí se puede." I love the slogan Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta created, and what they stood for. Also, I want to thank my parents for all their support and their loving words of advice these past four years, there's not enough words to describe my gratitude, I owe it all to them.



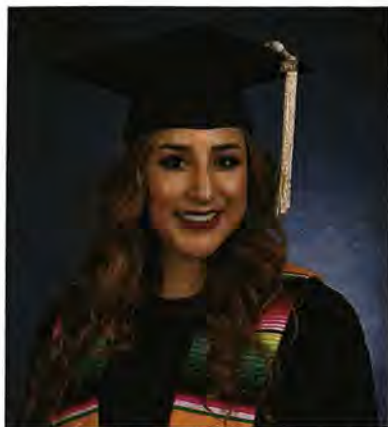
**ANA YARITZA  
RIVAS PORTILLO**

*Major: Liberal Studies- Teacher Preparation  
Minor: Mexican American Studies*

I would like to give thanks to all of my friends and family who have supported me throughout my college experience. Shoutout to my pledge sisters Lambda Epsilon, y'all the best, thanks for being there through the bad and good. Lastly, all of my hard work is dedicated to my parents Marta and Manuel. I finally did it!!

- The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.





**ANAHI  
OJEDA**

Major: Psychology  
Minor: Human Rights

Mis logros no son nada más míos pero también son de mis padres. El apoyo incondicional de mis padres me han dado la fortaleza, seguridad, y ganas de seguir adelante. Mi familia y yo hemos logrado salir adelante apesar de las dificultades que se nos han presentado. Le quiero dar las gracias a mis padres, hermana y hermanos por ser tan pacientes conmigo. Al igual le quiero dar las gracias al resto de mi familia por darme buenos consejos y motivarme día tras día.



**ANDREA  
ALMANZA AMADOR**

Major: Communication Disorders  
& Sciences

*"The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty."*

*-Zig Ziglar*

Being able to reach my goals has always been my priority, but I would never be able to accomplish them without the help of my family. Having their support has helped me get through all the tough moments and to always believe in my self.



**ANDREA  
ELIZABET LOZA**

Major: Liberal Studies Teaching Prep.  
Minor: Education

*"Many small people, in small places, doing small things can change the world."*

*"Muchas personas pequeñas, en lugares pequeños, haciendo pequeñas cosas pueden cambiar el mundo."*

*-Eduardo Galeano*

Ma y Pa, gracias a ustedes aprendí que es ser valiente. Que cada no, es un si que viene hacia mi. Que nunca me tengo que dar por vencida porque al final de el día siempre tendré su apoyo. Los sacrificios que se hicieron para mí, nunca podré pagarlos, pero puedo y pasaré el resto de mi vida haciéndolos orgullosos. Soy fuerte porque soy producto de inmigrantes."





**ANDREA  
IBARRA**

*Major: Psychology*

Andrea Ibarra is an immigrant DACA student who is the first one in her family to be graduation from an University. Being born in a different country, she has faced many obstacles that could have prevented her from continuing her education. She is proud to be a role model to her two younger brothers and she is extremely thankful to her parents for pushing her to get a higher education and receive her degree in psychology.



**ANDREA  
RICO**

*Major: Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting*

Mom y Dad, no hay palabras para expresar la gratitud que tengo para ustedes por darme esta oportunidad increíble. Gracias a ustedes, hoy cruzo esta etapa orgullosamente representando a mi familia, mi cultura, y todas las Latinas educadas. Hoy, no somos una minoría sino más bien seres humanos tratando de hacer una diferencia en este mundo. ¡Dicho eso, mis logros no terminan aquí! Con su eterno apoyo y con la guianza de Dios, se que voy a seguir siendo exitosa en este nuevo capítulo en mi vida.

“Todo lo puedo en Cristo que me fortalece.” Filipenses 4:13



**ANDRES  
VILLASEÑOR**

*Major: Psychology*

Hola, mi nombre es Andres Villaseñor. I'm Mexican-American and a San José native, born and raised. Graduating from San Jose State University has got to be one of my greatest accomplishments to date. But more so, an even greater achievement is being able to make my parents proud, to be able to show them that all their struggles of immigrating to this country were worthwhile. I'm not finished, but this is a stepping stone to fulfilling that. Gracias a mis papás, mi familia y amigos, this one's for you.





**BRENDA  
AGUILAR**

*Major: Communicative Disorders & Sciences*

"Take pride in how far you have come & have faith in how far you can go"



**CARLOS  
HERNANDEZ CORTEZ**

*Major: Business Administration  
Concentration in Management Info Systems*

I grew up in a town called Hollister to parents who left everything they had and came here to give their children a better future. I'm glad I can now say their sacrifices weren't in vain. As an educated member of the Latino community, it is important to lead by example to all the other Latino/a students who may have doubts about their potential. I'm grateful to attend a school with such a diversity of people and cultures.

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela



**CARLOS  
LONA**

*Major: Aerospace Engineering*

Everybody has the responsibility to make life better. Some people try to discover cures for diseases, others try to make life fair in societies, and some people help by simply fighting fires. I on the other hand want to stray the people from remaining stagnant on Earth. To some people it may seem like a waste of time, but to the people of the future they will thank the ones that saw the greater picture.

Un saludo especial para toda Mi Familia Adorada incluyendo a toda la bola de NAKos.

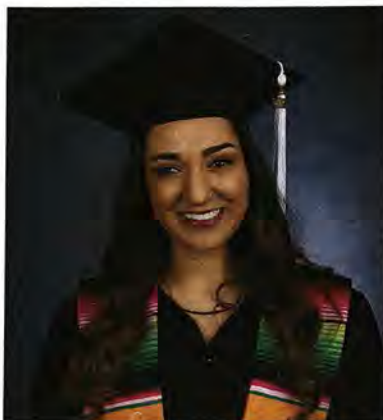




**CHRYSSTOFER  
GARCIA**

*Major: Civil Engineering  
Minor: Mathematics*

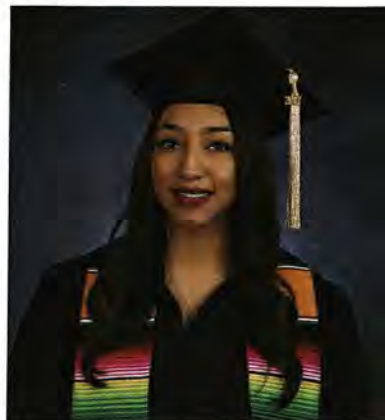
Este momento importante de mi vida se lo quiero dedicar a mis padres porque sin la ayuda y el apoyo de ellos no tuviera el privilegio de estar apunto de ser el primero en mi familia en graduarme de una Universidad. Ser el primero en graduarme se significa mucho para mi porque sirvo como un ejemplo para mi hermana y hermano para que ellos tambien persigan una carrera. Este camino no a sido nada facil pero con esfuerzo y dedicacion en podido llegar aqui.



**CORINA  
MORA**

*Major: Liberal Studies Teacher Prep*

"Prefiero morir de pie que vivir de rodillas."  
-Emiliano Zapata



**CRYSTAL  
LEMUS**

*Major: Sociology-Community Change*

Mis padres han sido mi mas grande inspiracion. Dios me bendijo con padres maravillosos, gracias a ellos nunca me hico falta nada y siempre me apoyaron en todo. De mis padres aprendi la importancia de trabajar duro, tener ambicion, permanecer humilde, nunca olvidar mis raices, y siempre tener fé en Dios. Estoy muy agradecida con mis padres por todos los sacrificios que han hecho por mi, es algo que nunca les podre repagar. Thank you to all of the friends, faculty, staff, family and my boyfriend who provided me with support and wonderful memories throughout my college experience. Si se pudo!





**DAISY  
GONZALEZ**

*Major: Child and Adolescent Development  
(preparation for teaching)*

Gracias Mamá y Papá por todo lo que han hecho por mí. Siempre les estaré agradecida. Todos mis esfuerzos y logros se los dedico a ustedes. ¡Los quiero con todo mi corazón!



**DAMIAN  
VALENCIA**

*Major: Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Minor: Business*

Be brave, take risks, never give up, keep your head up high and serve as a role model for those who are looking up to you. This one is for mi abuelo Raffa, my two lovely grandmas, mis papas trabajadores and the rest of my family. Esto todavia no se acaba, apenas va comenzando;



**DAVID DE LA CRUZ  
GARCIA**

*Major: Business Administration with  
Concentration in Management Information System*

Primeramente, quiero darle las gracias a mis padres por todo lo han echo por mi y por todo el apoyo que me an brindado a pesar de los errores que eh cometido. En especial, le quiero dar las gracias a mi mama por enseñarme a siempre seguir adelante y nunca rendirme. No ay palabras suficientes que puedan describir lo agrededico que estoy con ella y cuanto la quiero. Sin ella, ninguno de mis logros serían posible. Gracias por siempre apoyarme, guiarme y ayudarme en todo y enseñarme a ser fuerte. Cada vez que me quize rendir, pensaba en ti y en todos tus sacrificios para sacarme adelante. Mamá, eres mi motivacion. Se que me tarde un poco pero lo logre! Todo esto es por ti. Espero que estes orgullosa de mi como yo lo estoy de ti. Te amo!





**DAYSY JACQUELINE  
GONZALEZ**

*Major: Behavioral Science  
Minor: Child and Adolescent Development*

I will never forget and ALWAYS cherish my college experience. It has been a long and difficult road, but having my parents and sisters support has been essential to my university success. Quisiera darle las gracias a mis padres por todos los sacrificios y esfuerzo que han enfocado en mi; por siempre tratando de darnos la mejor vida posible y por darnos lo que ustedes nunca tuvieron. To my older sisters & younger brothers who always have supported me and been present when I've needed you. Aurelia & Jessica, thank you for being great role models; I truly appreciate you and what you do for me. A special thanks to the ladies of Sigma Alpha Zeta, with your help I have developed the necessary skills to succeed in and out of college, you ladies will always hold a special place in my heart.



**EDUARDO  
MAGDALENO**

*Major: Business - Human Resources*

The Pain That You've Been  
Feeling, Can't Compare to The Joy  
That's Coming.

-Romans 8:18



**ELIZABETH  
FERNANDEZ DUARTE**

*Major: BA Sociology/Social Interaction  
Minor: Mexican American Studies & Psychology*

Hoy celebro uno de los días mas felices de mi vida. Primero que nada le quiero dar gracias a dios por permitirme vivir este momento. A mis padres les dedico este triunfo, les agradezco todos los sacrificios que hicieron para que yo tuviera la oportunidad de recibirme. Ustedes y mis hermanos han sido mi más grande motivación. A mis abuelitos y mi tíos por siempre creer en mí. A mi profesora y mentora, Magdalena Barrera for always supporting me unconditionally. Y por último, a mis hermanas de Sigma Pi Alpha Sorority por hacer esta experiencia universitaria única. Los Amo! Sigma!!!





**ELSEY  
ARREOLA**

*Major: Anthropology*

I am different. Always have been. It took a while but I have accepted that I am magic not meant for everyone to understand. So they question. That's okay. I will stay in my lane... being all magical & s\*\*\*\*t.



**ERIKA  
VALDERRAMA**

*Major: Business Administration:  
Accounting Information Systems*

Coming from a low income family and undergoing hardships after my mother's passing, I never thought about college. I'm now proud to say that I am a graduating first generation college student! However, I couldn't have done it without my sister my #1 motivator, my family who fed me tacos de barbacoa when I went home, my sorority sisters who gave me a second family in the bay area and my mentor Susan, who was like my second guardian. Also, shout out to all my haters for pushing me to prove you wrong. Now, who can buy me a shot?



**FABIAN  
ROMERO MARTINEZ**

*Major: Kinesiology*

La escuela me enseñó a ser una persona educada. A leer y a escribir. Pero la escuela de la vida me enseñó a sacrificar lo que soy, por lo que podré llegar a ser.





**FABIOLA  
GARCIA**

Major: Sociology concentration in  
Race and Ethnic Studies

Minor: Mexican American Studies & Spanish

"The Most Dangerous Weapon is  
an Educated Chicana"



**GLADYS HERNANDEZ  
CISNEROS**

Major: Political Science

My bachelor's degree is the greatest, most rewarding achievement so far in my life. As a first generation college student, obtaining a higher education degree seemed like an insurmountable goal. The journey has been long, hard, but oh so worth it! Today, I graduate. But so do my parents, my siblings, and my ancestors who were there cheering me on along the way- lo logramos. My advice for future students is: keep your priorities straight, be diligent with your school work, and keep the end goal in sight. Echenle ganas! Congrats class of 2017!



**IVAN  
ABREGO**

Majors: Spanish, Radio, Television, & Film

"No vayas a donde te lleve el camino, sino a donde no hay uno para que dejes tu huella" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Quiero agradecer a mis padres y hermana por el apoyo incondicional que siempre me brindaron a lo largo de esta travesía. A cada uno de mis compañeros y amigos que hicieron de esta experiencia inolvidable. Gracias Nancy por estos dos años y medio, por tu comprensión y cariño.





**JESSICA  
GOMEZ**

*Major: Child and adolescent development  
with the concentration in community*

I am where I am because of my parents, siblings, uncles, cousins, grandmother and friends. I feel extremely fortunate to say that I had unconditional love and support from every single one of them. As a first generation, Mexican-American female I want to be a role model to my 23 and counting first cousins and reciprocate the support they gave me. No matter where I end up, who I become, I will never forget from where I came from or the struggles I went through because those are what made me who I am today.



**JOSIE  
PELAYO**

*Major: Business Administration with a  
concentration in Management*

First I would like to thank god for giving me the opportunity to make it this far, as well as my family and friends for giving me all their support and guiding me towards this path. Being the first in my family to graduate from college has been a challenge but nothing ever made it impossible. After graduation I hope to continue pursuing all my future aspirations. I know there will be many challenges in the long run but I am confident I will achieve my goals. Like many say, life is full of many surprises and I can't wait to see what's ahead of me. Congrats Class of 2017, We did It!



**JULIO CESAR  
RODRIGUEZ**

*Major: Political Science  
Minor: Spanish*

My name is Julio César Rodríguez from Sun Valley, California. I am senior majoring in Political science with a Spanish minor. My parents are from small town in Zacatecas, Mexico. To me being an educated chixano means knowing and taking pride in your culture. "Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures" -Cesar Chavez





**KAREN  
ALEJANDRA CAMACHO**

*Major: Sociology & MAS  
Minor: Psychology*

My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive. And to do so with passion, compassion, style, and humor.



**KARINA  
JIMENEZ**

*Major: Recreation Management*

Each decision I have taken has led me here. In the moment, moving eight hours away was one of the most frightening decisions ever; yet look at me now. I have learned to take a leap of faith and put one foot in front of the other. My college experience has shaped who I am and I am not the same person I was four years ago. I am Chicana, I am a leader, I am independent, I am resilient, I am determined, I am thankful, I am humble, and much more. A mis padres, todo lo que hice siempre fue por ustedes.



**KARLA PAOLA  
RUIZ**

*Major: Sociology*

"De los tropiezos aprendez a saber donde pizar." Esto no fue facil pero Gracias a la ayuda de mis padres y dios pude lograrlo, los quiero mucho





**LAURA  
ROJAS**

*Major: Sociology: Social Interaction  
Minor: Child and Adolescent Development*

"Soy el tipo de mujer que si quiero  
la luna, me la bajo yo solita"  
-Frida Kahlo



**LAURA  
VAZQUEZ**

*Major: Psychology  
Minor: Kinesiology*

"What you get by achieving your  
goal is not as important as what  
you become by achieving your  
goals"

-Zig Ziglar

My college years have been the  
best years of my life. I am forever  
thankful with my parents for  
teaching me to persevere. I  
appreciate all of the experiences  
and memories that college  
provided me with. I am thankful to  
have met the greatest people and  
will truly never forget my college  
experience. The laughter, the  
stress, the late nights, they were  
all worth it and a part of my  
growth. I embrace all of it and  
loved it all.



**LIZVETTE  
ESPINOZA**

*Major: Sociology and Spanish*

I dedicate my success to my  
parents without their support  
nothing would have been possible.  
"To make a great dream come  
true, the first requirement is a  
great capacity to dream; the  
second requirement is persever-  
ance"

-Cesar E. Chavez





**LUISA MARLEN  
SALAS-MACIEL**

*Major: Communication Studies*



**MAGDALENA  
CRUZ**

*Major: Child Development  
and Spanish*



**MARCO ANTONIO  
SANDOVAL**

*Major: Computer Science  
Minor: Mathematics*

I dream of the day when undeveloped regions that are at war can rejoice the way we are today, because the health of humanity was put first and peace was restored. This ceremony is a luxury, this achievement is a privilege and peace is a right.

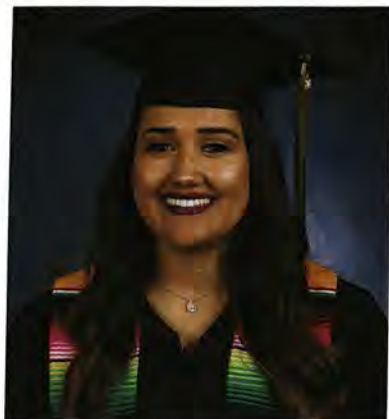
"Time to get in my Mustang and drive until I find what I'm looking for. Maybe it's a purpose or maybe it's a new start or maybe it's just a sky with unclouded stars."

I want to thank my family, my mother who is the strongest/courageous/smarest/humblest person I've ever met. Thank you mom. I also want to thank my older brothers for building the foundation my sister and I followed. And I want to thank my younger sister for building a balanced and humble brother. Thank you all.

As a minority let's build a stronger future and help each other succeed.

"Ahi que avanzar la RAZA!"

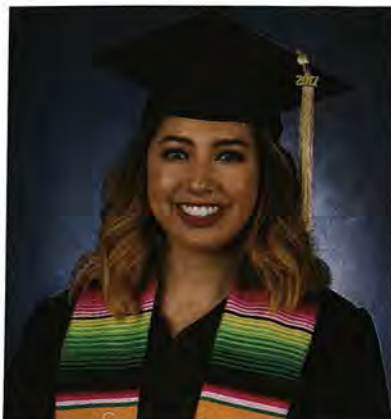




**MARIA  
BARRERA**

*Major: Health Science  
Minor: Spanish*

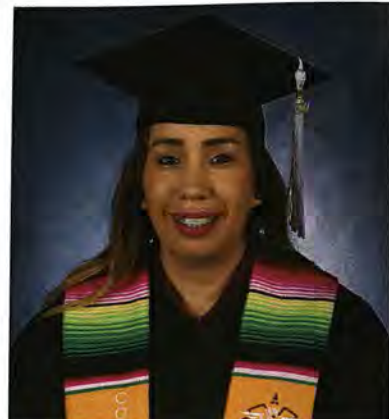
Proud of who I am and what I have accomplished. I couldn't have done it without my parents supporting me the entire way. This is for them!



**MARISOL ESPINO  
FIGUEROA**

*Major: History  
Minor: Humanities*

Gracias a mis padres por su valentía y sacrificios al emigrar a este país. Ustedes me han dado la oportunidad de tener una vida llena de felicidad y conocimientos. I would also like to thank my family for their unconditional support. I have been blessed with a wonderful community both at San José State and at home. As a Mexican-American, I have been able to experience two cultures that foster values I cherish: freedom, perseverance, and humildad. I would not be where and who I am today without these values. Congratulations to my fellow graduates, may post-grad life be kind to you.



**MARIZA ELIZABETH  
MENDOZA MAGANA**

*Major: Social Work*

Every Day is a Second Chance





**NANCY JEANETH  
BARAHONA**

*Major: Liberal Studies  
Preperation for Teaching  
Minor: Spanish*

"Guirra Vieja dale Gracias a Dios  
que ya terminastes" - Mama



**NANCY  
MACÍAS**

*Major: History  
Minor: Mexican American Studies*

I transferred from Gavilan Community College in Gilroy and am proud of now receiving my undergraduate degree from San José State University. My family is from a small rancho near Fresno, California, México and I recognize that I could not have completed this chapter in my life without their unyielding love, help, and support.

Mi familia es de un rancho pequeño cerca de Fresno, California, México. Estoy orgullosa de terminar este capítulo y sé que no se hubiera echo sin el amor, apoyo, y la ayuda de mi familia. Afortunadamente, he tenido el gran ejemplo de mi madre, Josefina, y de mi hermana, Juana. Viendo a ellas, sé lo que es ser una mujer fuerte, cariñosa, y inteligente. Las amo con todo mi corazón y les dedico esto a ellas.

"Quiero morir siendo esclavo de los principios, no de los hombres"  
--Emiliano Zapata



**NATHALY  
CISNEROS**

*Major: Sociology  
Minor: Spanish*

Thus far this is one of my greatest accomplishments, and from here on it will just keep getting better. This one's for my parents who have worked extremely hard to get me where I am today. I thank them for everything they've done, for who I am today and what I've yet to become. Congratulations class of 2017!





**NORELY  
ALCANTARA**

*Major: Business Administration with a  
Concentration In Finance  
Minor: Spanish*

Esta meta no fue fácil y ustedes lo saben, pero con el apoyo y el amor que ustedes me dieron le eche ganas y lo logre. Hoy tendremos lágrimas de felicidad de que se pudo lograr un sueño para nosotros. Gracias familia y especialmente mama y papa por el amor que me dan y por creer en mí.



**OSCAR  
ZELAYA**

*Major: Communication Studies  
Minor: Mexican American Studies*

College has been quite the adventure of a lifetime. Thank you to friends and most importantly family for your endless support.



**RICARDO  
GONZALEZ ESPINOZA**

*Major: Business Administration:  
Management Information Systems*

Les quiero dar muchas gracias a mis padres por el apoyo de mi educacion. "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."- Nelson Mandela. Y arriba Zacatecas y Michoacan!!!





**RICARDO  
MAGAÑA**

*Major: Justice Studies  
Minor: Mexican American Studies*

"La única persona de la que tienes  
que ser mejor, es la persona que  
fuiste ayer."



**RODOLFO  
MEDA**

*Major: Political Science  
Minor: History*

Politics is the art of the possible,  
the attainable--the art of the best.



**ROXANA  
FRANCO**

*Major: Business Administration  
Concentration in Entrepreneurship*

"My mother was a dominant force  
in our family. And I always saw her  
as the leader. And that was great  
for me as a young woman,  
because I never saw that women  
had to be dominated by men." ---  
Dolores Huerta





**SONIA  
URIBE**

*Major: Psychology*

I wouldn't be graduating if it wasn't for the unconditional love and support my parents have provided me. Thank you for never losing hope in me even when I had lost hope in myself. All your sacrifices have been worth it which is why my diploma is dedicated to my family.



**SOPHIA  
ALCALA-CABRERA**

*Major: Psychology*

To my family,  
  
Thank you for your everlasting love and endless support. I dedicate all of the glory of my achievements to you.



**STEFFANIE  
JIMENEZ**

*Major: Sociology concentration in  
Race and Ethnic Studies*

Yo vengo de manos trabajadoras. Yo vengo de gente luchona. Yo vengo de sangre valiente. Yo vengo de dos corazones. Yo vengo de enseñanzas y lecciones. Yo vengo de abrazos y chingadazos. Por que, ama...apa ...ya se come dice El dicho " cuando tu vas yo ya vengo". Yo vengo con palabra y honor. Y En este dia yo vengo a dar honor. Yo vengo a dar gracias, Por todo lo que me han dado. Por sus esfuerzos y su apoyo. Y gracias a ustedes yo soy quien soy...Una mujer educada.



**STEVEN  
LEMUS**

*Major: Kinesiology  
Minor: Movement Science*

Originally from Soledad, CA I decided that SJSU was the place for me. Becoming the first member of my family to obtain a degree from a four-year institute gives me more than bragging rights, it sets the tone for the next generations of dream chasers. With that being said to the Lemus, Sanchez, and Haro families I owe you all a huge thank you for supporting me through my college endeavor. I plan on continuing my education in order to become a licensed physical therapist.



**VALERIA  
RODRIGUEZ**

*Major: Anthropology  
Minor: Mexican American Studies*

I am a first generation college student, who strives to be a positive example for my family. Interesting facts about me are that I love food and taking adventures.

A mis padres increíbles que me anecho la persona que soy hoy, les debo todo. Sin ustedes nada de lo que he logrado hubiera sido posible. Todo lo que hago es para hacer a mi familia orgullosa de mi.

Class of 2017 An adventure beyond our wildest dreams is coming to an end, the doors open for us are endless lets take advantage and create a better world.



**VIVIANA  
CASIAS RUIZ**

*Major: BA in Psychology  
Minor: Child Development &  
Mexican American Studies*

Quiero tomar este espacio para agradecer a mis papas, Maria y Iraide, y hermanas, Chia y Tere por el apoyo incondicional que me han brindado a lo largo de mi experiencia en la Universidad. Llegar a graduarme de la Universidad no solo es un triunfo para mi, si no para toda mi familia. El camino no fue facil, pero fue posible gracias a ellos. Esta licenciatura es para ayudar a honrar el esfuerzo y sacrificio que mis padres han superado. Ojala este logro pueda motivar a mis sobrina/os: Yvette, Destiny, y los que faltan. I Love You!





**YADIRA MEJIA  
MARTINEZ**

*Major: International Business Management  
Minor: Spanish*

"The future comes one day at a time"



**YARELI  
BANDA**

*Major: Spanish & Linguistics*

Mi educación es la herencia más grande que mis padres me pudieron haber regalado. Mi inteligencia es algo que nunca nadie me podrá quitar, algo que tiene un valor único y la arma más poderosa para cambiar el mundo de forma positiva.



**ZULY FLORES  
QUEVEDO**

*Major: Social Work*

Gracias mom and dad por darme la oportunidad de estar aquí hoy, cumpliendo uno de mis sueños. Gracias por apoyarme en todo y por enseñarme a luchar y nunca rendirme. Les debo la vida y este diploma es para ustedes. Estoy orgullosa de ser la primera en nuestra familia en recibirme. Brother this is for you too. Thank you for being my partner in life and for being here with me today, I love you forever! Sister, without your guidance I would have never made it this far. Thank you for being my guardian angel. I'm finally keeping the promise I made to you ten years ago and I hope I've made you proud. You're forever in my heart baby sister!

Gracias a mi familia por su apoyo!  
Los quiero mucho!





JARA  
JUDAIA AVILA

*Major: Justice Studies*

*Minor: Music & Mexican American Studies*

I am Judaia a first generation Mexican-American college student. As the oldest sibling in my family I was left on my own to seek opportunities for my family to have a brighter future. Certainly my college experience provided me with many achievements . It also brought a lot of amazing and caring people into my life. My degree has allowed me to peruse my passion for teaching violin and my desire to counsel youth at Juvenile Hall for the Santa Clara County. For me my Bachelors is just the beginning of many many more great things to come in my life. "POR QUÉ TODO SE PUEDE CON ESFUERZO Y DEDICACIÓN"



SEBASTIAN  
MANUEL CORREA

*Major: Justice Studies*

*Minor: Psychology*

Time at SJSU:

RA for 3 years, Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc, internship with Justice Corps

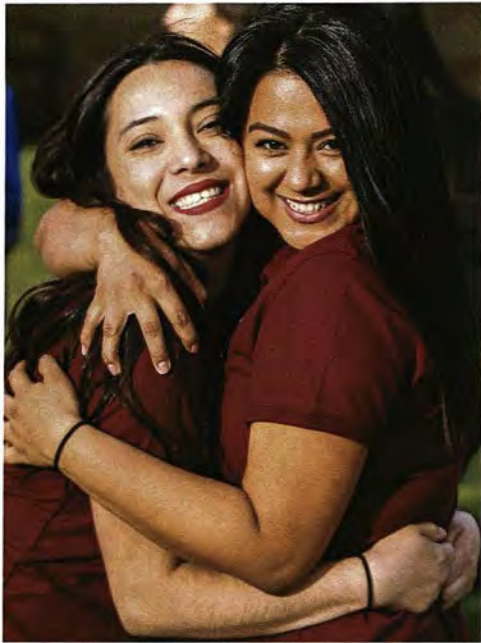
After College:

Full time job as a Crisis Counselor  
Contracted to be a 2nd Lieutenant  
in the Army National Guard

Career goal:

Become a Police Officer and  
better community and police  
interactions and perceptions













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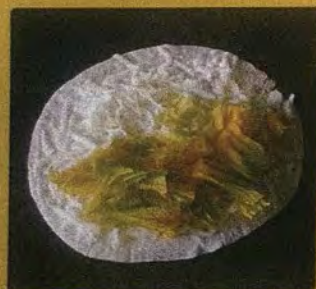


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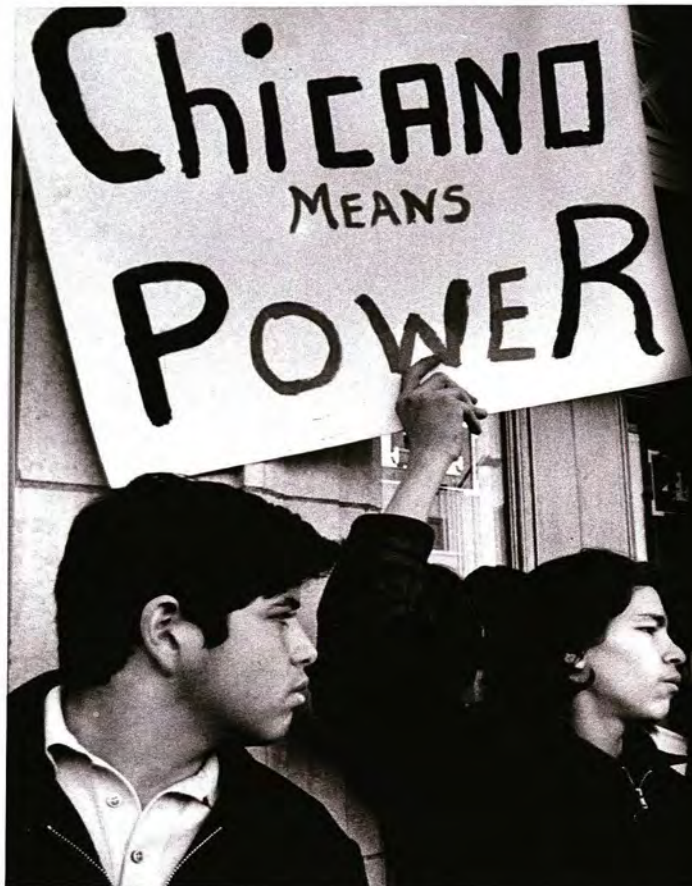
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




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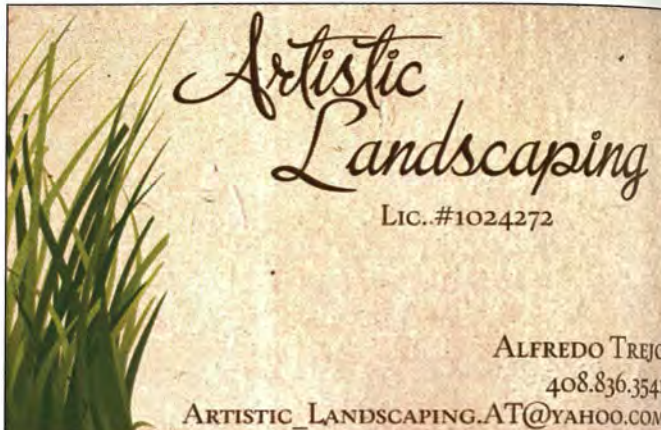
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Quisiera darle gracias a mis padres por haberme dado esta oportunidad tan grande, sin ustedes yo no pudiera estar aquí. Los quiero mucho!

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mom, dad, luis, and diana

¡Felicidades  
Mariza Elizabeth!









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